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## **Power Fund Receives Recognition from EPA**

*Environmental Protection Agency commends Power Fund for environmental good works*

(Des Moines, IA) – The Iowa Power Fund Board met yesterday and had a special guest who requested to speak to the board: Environmental Protection Agency's Region 7.

"This board, created by the state of Iowa, has had a big impact, not only in energy independence, but also about the future of the state of Iowa," said John Askew, Region 7 Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. "This region is known as an agriculture and biofuels region, but will be very quickly known for agriculture, biofuels, wind, and energy independence."

Later, Askew continued the discussion and highlighted the importance of the Power Fund and its work in linking energy decisions with the environment, economy, and energy independence.

"The fact that the Power Fund has been recognized by U.S. EPA shows that it's effective and is being noticed," said Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Power Fund Board member. "It is vital that we maintain our leadership status on renewable fuels, and the Power Fund plays an important role in the continued development of the industry here in Iowa."

"With the national recognition that the Iowa Power Fund and the Office of Energy Independence receives, now is the time to continue our support for clean, renewable energy," said Representative Nathan Reichert, Iowa House District 80 and Ex-Officio Member of the Power Fund Board. "Investments now will lead us to a stronger future for Iowa."

The Board also heard two presentations from applicants seeking funding. Both applications took another step forward in the process and will start contract term negotiations. Projects are highlighted below:

### **Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Project, Requesting \$19,000 with Matching \$81,025**

Consumers Energy Cooperative will purchase and retrofit a standard hybrid vehicle so that it can be plugged into a standard electrical outlet. The funding will pay for the testing and monitoring of the vehicle's performance in Iowa's various conditions. The project goal is to assess whether more standard hybrid vehicles should be converted to Plug-In Hybrids.

### **Increasing the Use of Distillers Grains in Livestock Diets, Requesting \$399,995 with matching \$320,753**

Iowa State University will conduct distillers grains (co-product from ethanol production) feeding studies for swine, poultry, and cattle to address strategies to overcome insoluble fiber, antibiotic and sulfate limitations, so the grains in livestock diets may be increased. The project goal is to find more uses for distillers grains from ethanol plants, which may help the ethanol industry offset some of their economic issues.

*The **Office of Energy Independence (OEI)** sets the strategic direction for Iowa's clean energy future by identifying goals to achieve desired results. The office will align state government efforts for achieving energy independence through partnerships with business and industry, community leaders, government and public agencies, and other stakeholders.*

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